

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a medical treatment from a system node to a user node, the method comprising:

- receiving an indicator from the user node at the system node;
- determining a payer attribute based on the indicator; and
- communicating the payer attribute to the user node across a computer network.

2. The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 1, wherein the indicator identifies a treatment.

3. The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 2, wherein the payer attribute comprises a diagnosis which support the treatment.

4. The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 2, wherein the treatment is a medical procedure.

5. The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 2, wherein the treatment is a medication.

6. The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 1, wherein the indicator identifies a payer.

7. The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 6, wherein the payer is an insurance company.

8. The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 6, wherein the payer attribute comprises a treatment commonly denied by the payer.

1                   9.       The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2       medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 1, wherein the  
3       user node comprises a browser in communication with the Internet.

1                   10.      The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2       medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 1, wherein the  
3       payer attribute comprises a payer requirement for approving a medical treatment.

1                   11.      The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2       medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 1, wherein the  
3       payer attribute comprises a suggested substitute treatment.

1                   12.      The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2       medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 11, wherein the  
3       payer attribute further comprises a difference between the suggested substitute treatment  
4       and a desired treatment.

1                   13.      The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2       medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 12, wherein the  
3       payer attribute further comprises at least one diagnosis for which the suggested substitute  
4       treatment is less optimal than the desired treatment.

1                   14.      The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2       medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 1, wherein the  
3       user node is operated by a patient.

1                   15.      The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2       medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 1, wherein the  
3       user node is located at a physician's office.

1                   16.      The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2       medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 1, wherein the  
3       user node is located at a pharmacy.

1           17.     The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2     medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 1, wherein the  
3     system node is a server in communication with the Internet.

1           18.     The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2     medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 1, wherein the  
3     system node is associated with a computer readable medium, the computer readable  
4     medium comprising:  
5                 treatment data associated with a treatment identifier;  
6                 payer data associated with a payer identifier; and  
7                 the payer attribute associated with a combination of the treatment identifier  
8     and the payer identifier.

1           19.     The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2     medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 18, wherein  
3     determining the payer attribute comprises:  
4                 associating the payer identifier with the medication identifier; and  
5                 retrieving the payer attribute associated with the medication identifier and  
6     payer identifier.

1           20.     The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2     medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 18, wherein the  
3     computer readable medium further comprises:  
4                 a first statistical datum associated with the payer identifier; and  
5                 a second statistical datum associated with the medication identifier.

1           21.     The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2     medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 1, the method  
3     further comprising:  
4                 receiving a request for access from a provider; and  
5                 providing the identity of the provider to a treatment supplier, wherein the  
6     treatment supplier provides the provider with a password.

1           22.    The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2    medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 1, wherein the  
3    indicator is a first indicator, the method further comprising:

4           receiving a second indicator from the user node at the system node.

1           23.    The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2    medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 22, the method  
3    further comprising:

4           providing a database interface at the user node, the database interface  
5    automatically retrieving one of the first or the second indicators from the user node and  
6    communicating the first and the second indicators to the system node.

1           24.    The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2    medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 22, wherein the  
3    first indicator identifies a treatment and the second indicator identifies a payer.

1           25.    The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2    medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 24, wherein the  
3    payer attribute is specific to both the payer and the treatment.

1           26.    The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2    medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 24, the method  
3    further comprising:

4           displaying an interface at the user node, wherein the first and second  
5    indicators are entered via the interface.

1           27.    The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2    medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 26, wherein the  
3    interface is an Internet page.

1           28.    The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2    medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 26, wherein the  
3    treatment is a medication and the interface is a first interface, the method further  
4    comprising:

5 providing a second interface at the user node, the second interface operable  
6 to receive an order for the medication;  
7 receiving the order for the medication; and  
8 ordering the medication.

1 29. The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2 medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 28, the method  
3 further comprising:  
4 communicating the order for the medication to a shipper.

1 30. The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2 medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 29, the method  
3 further comprising:  
4 receiving compensation from the shipper for communicating the order to  
5 the shipper.

1 31. The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2 medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 26, wherein the  
3 interface is a first interface, the method further comprising:  
4 providing a second interface at the user node for creating an approval  
5 request; and  
6 communicating a created approval request to the payer.

1 32. The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2 medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 31, wherein the  
3 second interface comprises an interactive letter.

1 33. The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2 medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 31, wherein the  
3 second interface comprises a form letter.

1 34. The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2 medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 31, the method  
3 further comprising:  
4 receiving a response from the payer, the response denying the created  
5 approval request;

6 communicating the response to the user; and  
7 providing a third interface at the user node for creating an appeal  
8 corresponding to the response.

1 35. The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2 medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 31, wherein the  
3 second interface is an Internet page comprising a field for entering data.

1 36. The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2 medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 35, wherein the  
3 Internet page comprises a radio button for selecting a diagnosis.

1 37. The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2 medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 36, wherein the  
3 radio button is a first radio button and the diagnosis is a first diagnosis, and wherein:  
4 the Internet page further comprises a second radio button for selecting a  
5 second diagnosis, the second diagnosis related to the first diagnosis.

1 38. The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2 medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 26, wherein the  
3 interface is a first interface, the method further comprising:  
4 providing a second interface at the user node for creating an approval  
5 appeal.

1 39. The method for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a  
2 medical treatment from a system node to a user node, according to claim 38, the method  
3 further comprising:  
4 communicating the approval appeal to the payer.

1 40. A method for securing approval for a particular medical treatment,  
2 the method comprising:  
3 providing a system node in communication with the Internet;  
4 receiving at the system node a first indicator and a second indicator, the  
5 first indicator identifying a medication and the second indicator identifying a payer;  
6 providing to a user node across the Internet a first interface for creating a  
7 request for approval corresponding to the first and second indicators.

41. The method for securing approval for a particular medical treatment, according to claim 40, wherein the first interface is an interactive letter.

42. The method for securing approval for a particular medical treatment, according to claim 40, wherein the first interface is a first Internet page.

43. The method for securing approval for a particular medical treatment, according to claim 40, the method further comprising:  
receiving a created request for approval from the user node; and  
communicating the created request for approval to the payer.

44. The method for securing approval for a particular medical treatment, according to claim 43, the method further comprising:

receiving a denial of the created request for approval, the denial comprising an indication of a treatment denied and the payer; and

providing to a user an appeal request corresponding to the denial.

45. The method for securing approval for a particular medical treatment, according to claim 44, wherein the appeal request is an interactive letter.

46. The method for securing approval for a particular medical treatment, according to claim 44, wherein the appeal request is created via an interactive Internet page.

47. The method for securing approval for a particular medical treatment, according to claim 44, wherein the appeal request comprises an electronic signature.

48. The method for securing approval for a particular medical treatment, according to claim 43, wherein the created request for approval comprises an electronic signature.

49. The method for securing approval for a particular medical treatment, according to claim 43, wherein communicating the created request for approval is done by facsimile.

50. A method for appealing a denial of a medical treatment by a payer to secure approval for the medical treatment, the method comprising:

- receiving a denial of a request to approve a medical treatment; and
- providing to a user across the Internet an appeal request corresponding to the denial of the request to approve.

51. A method of securing approval for a particular medical treatment from a payer, the method comprising:

- operating a user node to provide an indicator to a system node, wherein the system node associated with a database, the database comprising:
  - a payer and an attribute associated with the payer, wherein the indicator selects the payer and the attribute;
  - receiving the attribute from the system node; and
  - receiving a customizable request for approval corresponding to the attribute.

52. A system for providing a payer attribute corresponding to a medical treatment to a user node in communication with a computer network, the system comprising:

a system node, the system node operable to perform the steps of claim 1.

53. A computer readable medium executable by a computer, the computer readable medium comprising:  
program data, the program data executable by the computer to perform the steps of claim 1.

54. A system for securing approval for a medical treatment from a payer, the system comprising:

- a system node in communication with the Internet, wherein the system node associated with a computer readable medium; and
- the computer readable medium embodying an interactive request for approval of a medical treatment.



